

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising temporarily increasing an effective serving rate, for a router configured to receive and transmit packets in a communications network at a time instant corresponding to an onset of congestion of the router, and thereby increasing the number of packets that a source, which provides packets to the router, is allowed to transmit into the communications network, wherein the effective serving rate is increased for a time period comprising a round-trip time interval for a packet transmitted in the network.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein increasing the effective serving rate comprises providing an auxiliary storage area for packets that would otherwise be stored in a queue at the router.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the auxiliary storage area is associated with a physical storage device external to the router.
4. (Canceled)